

# Ogdensburg Journal

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## 8 College Students Held On Telephone Co. Charge

Potsdam - Eight college students in Potsdam allegedly took on the New York Telephone Company and lost - but not before ringing up "several thousand" dollars of toll free calls.

According to the Potsdam State Police, a Clarkson College student was the "brains" of an operation that used a "quite ingenious device that

circumvented toll operators."

Police estimated that the students had rung up several thousands dollars of calls in the last several weeks. However, they had apparently made a few one or two hour overseas calls and the phone company was alerted to the electronic skullduggery.

Late last night, state police,

Potsdam police and N.Y. Telephone Company investigators raided the students. Arrested are six Clarkson College students and two students from SUNY at Potsdam. The students were arraigned before Potsdam Village Justice Robert Halliday.

The arrested students are:

William J. Cotter, 19, Clarkson, of Baldwinsville - arrested for possession of burglary tools and criminal tampering. Cotter pleaded not guilty and has been committed to St. Lawrence County jail in lieu of \$250 bail.

Robert Darling, 24, Clarkson, of Marcy, N.Y. - pleaded guilty to charges of possessing burglary tools and theft of services. Darling has been committed to jail in lieu of \$250.

Elizabeth Anne Dooley, 19, Potsdam State, of the Bronx, N.Y. - arrested for criminal tampering and theft of services. She pleaded not guilty and has been jailed in lieu of \$250.

David Levy, 19, Clarkson, of Forest Hills, NY. - arrested for criminal tampering. He pleaded guilty and was jailed in lieu of \$250.

Lee Maisler, 19, Clarkson, of Great Neck, Long Island - arrested for criminal tampering. He pleaded guilty and paid a fine of \$25.

Mary McGill, 20, Potsdam State, of Antwerp, N.Y. - arrested for possession of burglary tools. She pleaded not guilty and was jailed in lieu of \$250.

John Henry Watson (who the police call the "brains"), 23, Clarkson, of Utica - arrested for possession of burglary tools and theft of services. Watson was jailed in lieu of \$250 after pleading guilty.

Jonathan Wolfert, 18, Clarkson, of Great Neck, L.I. - arrested for possession of burglary tools. He pleaded not guilty and was jailed in lieu of \$250.

The police refused to divulge any further information about the device used to bilk the phone company, saying it's "not the kind of information that should be going around."